

SIMULATION USING DESIGN GEOMETRY INFORMATION

Fang-Cheng Chang

ABSTRACT

Design geometry information from an area outside the area of interest (AOI) on a mask can be combined with inspection information from the AOI to facilitate an accurate, simulated wafer image. The design geometry information can be easily generated or accessed, thereby ensuring an uninterrupted inspection process and minimizing the associated storage costs for the simulation process. The design geometry information can be pseudo design geometry information or actual design geometry information.

1. A method for simulating a wafer image, comprising:
receiving design geometry information from an area outside the area of interest (AOI) on a mask;
receiving inspection information from the AOI;
combining the design geometry information and the inspection information to facilitate an accurate, simulated wafer image;
wherein the design geometry information is generated or accessed to ensure an uninterrupted inspection process and minimize associated storage costs for the simulation process;
wherein the design geometry information is pseudo design geometry information or actual design geometry information.